

February 2016 Message from President Howie Hirsch

This past month, Rabbi Dubin and I were privileged to attend the [Shallat Retreat](#) sponsored by the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) for temples with new rabbis. We spent two days getting to know each other better and to develop our vision for the future of our temple.

One of the exercises that we performed was to determine the things that we do as a congregation and then classify them. As we performed this exercise, I was amazed at how many things that we do as a small congregation. The following list was compiled in 10 minutes, so there are certainly things that you do that may not have made this list.

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| 1. Shabbat services | 19. Hanukkah | 37. Speakers |
| 2. Maintain our building | Celebration | 38. Elevator |
| 3. Tzedakah | 20. Children's Service | 39. New kitchen – |
| 4. Biker Cholim (visiting the sick) | 21. Lay Torah readers at High Holidays | environmentally focused |
| 5. Cantor's Adult Education | 22. Active Sisterhood | 40. New Kashrut policy for in temple events |
| 6. Rabbi's Adult Education | 23. Girls' Night out | 41. Recycling program |
| 7. Adult Hebrew Reading programs | 24. Domestic Abuse Training | 42. Newsletter |
| 8. Sukkah dinner | 25. Board Meetings | 43. Interfaith connections |
| 9. M&M dispenser | 26. Committee Meetings | 44. Communal beginning of Sunday School |
| 10. Madrichim program | 27. Food Drive | 45. Website |
| 11. Confirmation class | 28. Grow-a-Row | 46. Membership training |
| 12. Temple Picnic | 29. Blood Drive | 47. Shabbat dinners at temple |
| 13. Evenings of Honor for distinguished members | 30. Purim Spiel | 48. Summer camp seminar |
| 14. Lay led Torah Study | 31. Israeli Day Parade | 49. Fund raising |
| 15. Book Club | 32. E-mail blasts | 50. PTO |
| 16. Mah Jongg | 33. Library | 51. Shofar training |
| 17. B'Nai Mitzvah training | 34. Torah writing session | 52. Camp tuition |
| 18. Shabbat Across America | 35. Teen social events | 53. Scholarship |
| | 36. Sunday School | 54. Cemetery |

If you do something, large or small, and it is not on this list, please send me a note so I can update the list. I want to have this to remind ourselves of how much we are able to do. Many times, we discuss what else we want to do as a congregation, but sometimes it is just as important to reflect on what we do.

Howie Hirsch